

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Claims 24-45 are allowed. The specific limitations of "...obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by decreasing the first control current/voltage through a range of values in a negative direction." in the combination as claimed in claim 24.
3. The specific limitations of "...decreasing a second control current in a negative direction at the same time;...obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by increasing the second control current through a range of values in the positive direction and decreasing a first control current in a negative direction at the same time;" in the combination as claimed in claim 35.
4. The specific limitations of "...means for obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by decreasing first control current through a range of values in a negative direction;" in the combination as claimed in claim 37.
5. The specific limitations of "...decreasing a second control current in a negative direction at the same time;...means for obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by increasing the second control current through a range of values in the positive direction and decreasing a first control current in a negative direction at the same time;" in the combination as claimed in claim 43.

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6. The specific limitations of "...a meter for obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by decreasing the first control current through a range of values in a negative direction." in the combination as claimed in claim 44.

7. The specific limitations of "...decreasing a second control current in a negative direction at the same time;...a meter for obtaining a second set of measurement values for the output of the laser diode by increasing the second control current through a range of values in the positive direction and decreasing a first control current in a negative direction at the same time;" in the combination as claimed in claim 45.

8. The examiner agrees with the applicant's argument that O'Dowd and Liou do not disclose the claimed limitations.

9. The limitations stated above are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xinning(Tom) Niu whose telephone number is 571-270-1437. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T, 7:30-5:00 EST, Alternate Fridays 7:30-4:00 ES.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Min Sun Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Xinning(Tom) Niu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2828  
10/19/2009

/Minsun Harvey/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2828